

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing in the above-identified application. In particular, the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. Claims 1-6 correspond to claims 24-29 which were restricted in the parent application identified in a restriction requirement dated January 29, 2002 (Paper No. 19).

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for consideration and allowance. Consideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

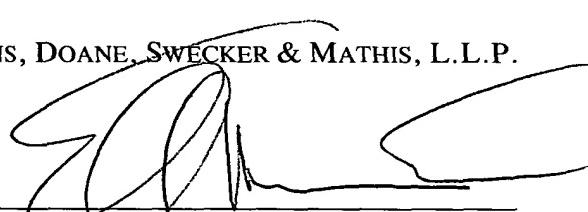
If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By:


Ellen Marcie Emas
Registration No. 32,131

Date: August 4, 2003

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620